Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

(b) and (c) The Special Plan for the KBK districts aims at tackling the problems of drought proofing, livelihood support, food security, connectivity, health, education, etc. as per local priorities and it is being funded on 100 per cent Central assistance basis.

Gloomy picture of Indian economy

2677. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank Development Policy Review's assessment has recently painted a gloom and doom picture of Indian economy;

(b) if so, the detail of their findings; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The World Bank in its development policy review entitled 'India: Sustaining Reform, Reducing Poverty' released on July 14, 2003, while acknowledging that India's growth over the past two decades has been one of the world's highest among large countries, has expressed concern over the deterioration in the fiscal position of the Centre and States. The Review observed that rising deficits and worsening public expenditure composition has limited the prospect for accelerating growth and poverty reduction.

(c) The Government is conscious of the need for reduction in fiscal deficit and promoting investment for productive purposes. Fiscal consolidation is one of the five priorities addressed in the Union Budget for 2003-04. The Budget has proposed a number of initiatives, such as, promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives, *inter alia*, are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.